

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

ENGLISH NATION.

Thursday, February 7. 1706.

I Am now come down to the Question, how far our Luxury is an Assistant to our Trade, and therefore ought not to be Suppress'd, because Trade being our National Support, must not be Discourag'd, Weaken'd, or Overthrown.

Let no Man take Measures from hence, to pursue a Luxurious Course, or what he ought not to Reform, because it will Discourage Trade, till he is assur'd he has an Authority to do that Evil that Good may come; let such consider, whether they do not do more than their Share, to Promote Trade and Publick Good, when they Ruine themselves, Soul and Body in the Attempt: such are but Melancholly Patriots, and will find as little Honour, as Advantage in the Matter.

But to ascertain a Medium in this Case,

for I do not Love to stint Mankind in their Beloved Gaiety; I think it Answers to my present Purpose very well, and would be an Excellent Medium to state the Expence of Families by; if all Men would Regulate their Vanity to one Common Standard, and pin it down there; viz. *To buy nothing but what they could immediately Pay for.*

Some People are of Such Tempers, that the very seeing their Money go, would be some Restraint to their Expence, and Luxury would receive a great many Checks by this Practice, and such perhaps, as in time might Regulate, not their Morals and Lives only, but Trade and the Methods of Living too.

1. It would certainly Regulate Trade, for the Efflux of Trade, or its last Vent

160.

Issuing always in Ready Money, as I before Noted, Losses in Trade would be strange things; no Man in Trade could Decay or Break, but by such Mistakes as he would Merit Punishment for, rather than Pity, or by such visible Casualty as would satisfy all the World, and Merit neither Censure nor Dishonour; such as Fire, Losses at Sea, Floods, Tempests and the like; for if the Shop-Keeper gave no Credit, he would always have Money or Goods in his Shop, a short Account would cast up his Estate, Goods and Cash would be all the Articles in the Credit of his Stock, Debts under the separate Heads of Due, and to grow Due, Doubtful, Desperate, and Bankrupt, would never come before him; he always would have the Satisfaction of knowing his Condition, and at first Sight could tell, whether he went backward or forward.

2. It would Preserve the Gentry and their Families; a Man of Estate would not Launch out so very unwarily, and *as we say*, Hand over Head, to his own Destruction, whey they saw their Money go, they would take some thought in the Disposal of it. I receiv'd a Rude Check from an Epistolary Gentleman, for blaming the Antient Nobility for coming to Court and spending their Estates there, which they use to spend before in Building Castles, &c. The Gentleman mistakes me; I do not Blame them for Spending their Income, which those Old Barons did, but in Spending the Solid, wasting not the Rent, but the Land bringing up Stock and Block; I cannot be concern'd at those that have Great Estates, Spending them freely, such are many ways useful to Trade, but to have Great Families Reduc'd to Beggary, the Estates and Inheritances Sold and gone, nay, tho' it remains still in Specie, some where, yet 'tis a general Damage, as every Prodigal is a Loss to the Publick Stock of the Nation, because he brings some Un-capable Wretch to want, who cannot Work.

There will for ever therefore remain a Difference, between Living Plentifully and Freely, and yet Honestly; and Living Pro-

fusely and Extravagantly, and Destroying their Estates, Ruining Families, and turning Gentlemen into Beggars.

In the open, Large, and Plentiful Living of the first sort, is that Luxury Maintain'd, which I say however it may be a Vice in Morals, may at the same time be a Vertue in Trade, and of this, I confess I cannot be forward to say, I would have it Suppress'd, a great share of our Trade, and for ought I know, two Millions of our People Live by it, and depend wholly upon it.

The Excursions, the Nufances, the Vicious part of this Trade may be restrain'd, and so far as it touches our Morals, they ought to be Restrain'd; but to bring down all those common Excrecencies of Mode, Habit, Fashion, and Custom in Apparel, which are in the General Practice of Trade, become a very considerable part of the Employment of our People, would be to Unhinge the whole Nation, load every Parish and Town with Starving People, Ruin'd Tradesmen, and the Rich would hardly be able to Support the Poor.

And upon this very Account, it is we see upon every stop of Trade, by Foreign Accidents, Embargoes upon Trade, or by Publick Mourning and the like; What a Hurry do we see in Trade, Infinite Bankruptcies, Ruptures and Fractures in Trade, to the Ruine of whole Crowds of sinking Families at once.

The middle way of this, would be a General Rule of Living, to have all Men Live within the Compass of what they have, and be able to Live, without taking Credit for their Common Expenses.

The want of this Husbandry, what Miserable Figures has it Reduc'd the best of our Nobility to; and how have several of the most Antient and Flourishing Families in England, being Trampled under the Feet of Trade? How do the Posterity of our Tradesmen, dwell now in the Castles, Mannours and Mansion-Houses of the English Nobility, and having Engross'd the Estates of those Famous Men, by the Luxury, ill Husbandry, and Extravagance of the

the Families, they lie Buried under the Ruines of their own Misfortunes ; what Instances of this have we of the Antient Families of V—, M—s, and H—s, and Infinite others, too Numerous to incert ? see the Ruine of the *English* Grandeur in Families ; 'tis true, the Grandeur, Opulence, and Wealth of this Nation, Encreas'd by Trade is Prodigious, and it would Puzzle a Good Head to Calculate it ; but I know not but this might have been brought to pass, tho' our Ancient Nobility had not been undone, and their

Estate doubled and divided among the Commoners.

Nor have these things been the Ruine of the Nobility and Gentry only, and of their Families, but this Excess of Luxury and large Credits, the Grand Support of it, have been the Spring of General Disorders, the Bankruptie, the Frauds, and Failings of Tradesmen into the Manner, the Abuses, the Oppressions, and Distractions of which, to the Nation, I am now coming to Enquire of Course, and a large Scene of Knavery and Folly will appear, both in Debtor and Creditor.

MISCELLANEA.

MR. REVIEW,

PRAY, what is the Reason, why, When the Gentlemen of a Party we call *High-Flyers*, are pleas'd to Write any thing bitter against the Government, as they of late are very free to do, and when they give themselves a loose against the Lords, the Clergy, and the Ministers of State, in the Interest of Government, or indeed any of the Queen's Friends ; they speak plain English, call Names, and Print Words at Length, with all the Assurance imaginable ; but when any of the other Side, such as your Worship, and your Brethren of the Pen, are pleas'd to make Excursions on some of their Party ; you are fain to make long strokes, Dashes, and Blanks, or appear under hard Polish Names, such as *Finski, Granski, Anglipoloski, and the like* ; Pray does this proceed from the Goodness and Justice of their Cause, the Impudence of the People concern'd, or from what other unknown Original ?

I confess, this is a Question I have had often occur'd to my Thoughts to speak to, and therefore I make no Scruple to say, this is only Stated in the Form of a Letter, as most proper to the Enquiry ; and I say it the rather, because I never do

otherwise Print any thing as a Letter, but what is really sent me as such.

As to the Goodness of a Cause, that must be supported with Affronting the Sovereign, Abusing the Nobility, Insulting the Ministry, and Lampooning the Government, I think I need not say much to that ; I leave the Goodness of their Cause, to be made out by themselves, *A La Mode, Mr. Stephens of Sutton.*

As to the Talent of the Party, in a thing call'd Assurance ; there is such an inimitable Index of it in the Memorial, that the Behaviour of some People, under direct Moral Certainty of Guilt, is as Addition to only a farther Demonstration, of the Rational Conjecture, from the Synonymous Temper, of the Book and of the People.

But if I may give my Opinion, the Foundation of all this Insolence, of which my Lord Keeper has had a late most Remarkable Specimen, lies in the Government, upon whose Criminal Moderation, if that Word may be allow'd me, these Excesses and Presumptions are all Built ; *Old Eli*, was no way Consenting to the Vices and Abominable Impudence of his Sons, who
lay

lay with *Israelitish* Women, even in the Door of the Tabernacle, only did not Execute the just Authority, Committed by the God of *Israel* to his Hand, by which he expected, at least he should keep his People from such Enormities, and therefore he is Charg'd in the Holy Text, with being Guilty of their Crimes.

Without doubt, Lenity and Mercy are the Glory of a Christian Government, and of this Government above all others; but if that Lenity be extended to such a permission, of the Insults of their Enemies, as no Reason, either Religious or Politick, can be given for; the Government it self becomes Accessary, and it is most Natural for Man to presume upon such a Forbearance, and Conclude they dare not do, what, if they were not afraid, none but they would Omit.——And that they do so presume is most plain.

The peculiar Goodness of Her Majesty Influences all her Ministers, and in almost any Age but ours, it would work upon the Minds of her People; but it cannot but Grieve the Loyal and Sincere Friends of the Government to see, not that they are Forgiven, for I would be the last to Prompt any Man's Misfortune, but that those Gentlemen, who see the Government Gentle and Forbearing, should make so ill a use of it, as to be thereby Encourag'd to insult it, and if I may undertake so much of Prophecy; I would foretell them that they may assure themselves, when ever provok'd beyond the Power of bearing, Her Majesty shall be effectually mov'd to a due Resentment, they will find the weight the heavier, by how much the longer it has been a falling.

ADVERTISEMENT.

Book; Printed for, and Sold by Jeffery Wake, at the Angel in St. Paul's Church-Yard.

Metaphysica Curiosa, being a Collection of some of the Principle Phenomena in Nature, accounted for by the greatest Philosophers. An Essay at the Mechanism of the Macrocosm, or the Effects upon their Causes in a New Hypothesis, accommodated to

our Modern and Experimental Philosophy, by *C. Purshall*, M. D. Copernicans of all sorts, Convicted by the Honourable *Edw. Howard*, Andr. Flacq. Tab. Sinum Tangentium & Secantium & Logarithmi, sin. Tangent, & Numerorum ab unitate ad 10000. Tacqueti, Elementa Geometriae, planae & solidae Arithmetica Theoria & praxis Hugenni opuscula Posthuma quae continent. Dioptricam commentarios de vitris figurandis. Principes de Physique par Nicholas Hartsoecker.

Lately Publish'd,

A Hymn to Peace; Occasion'd by the two Houses joining in one Address to the Queen. By the Author of the True-Born English-Man. Sold by *John Nutt*, near Stationer-Hall, 1706.

RHOMBI SCOLETEINI: Or, the Lozerge for Killing Worms. These Lozenges are not only effectual in that Distemper, but also in all Scorbutick Cakes; Loss of Appetite, Loathsomness to Meat; Pains in the Head and Stomach; they expel the Gravel, help the Dropic, Gout, and Rheumatism, Cure the Ague, and are an excellent Cleanser after Small Pox, Meazles, and Child-Bearing. Prepared only by *Ralph Owner*, Apothecary, at the Pettle and Mortar, next door but one to the Crown, near the May-Pole in East-Smithfield.

THE Royal Essence for the Hair of the Head and Perriwigs, being the most delicate and charming Perfume in Nature, and the greatest Preserver of Hair in the World, for it keeps that of Perriwigs (a much longer time than usual) in the Curl, and fair Hair from fading or changing colour, makes the Hair of the Head grow thick, strengthens and confirms its Roots, and effectually prevents it from falling off or splitting at the ends, makes the Powder continue in all Hair longer than it possibly will, by the use of any other thing. By its incomparable Odour and Fragancy it strengthens the Brain, revives the Spirits quickens the Memory and makes the Heart chearful, never raises the Vapours in Ladies, &c. being wholly free from (and abundantly more delightful and pleasant than) Musk, Civet, &c. 'Tis indeed an unparallel'd fine Scent for the Pocket, and perfumes Handkerchiefs, &c. excellently. To be had only at *Mr. Allcrafts*, a Toyshop at the Blue-Coat Boy against the Royal Exchange in Cornhill, Sealed up, at 2 s. 6 d. a Bottle with Directions. Beware of Counterfeits, such are abroad, accompany'd with Base Insinuations, and Romantick pretences.